Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1.-6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) A contour emphasizing circuit, comprising:

a contour pick-up unit for sampling a contour component from an input video signal;

a level judging unit comprising a decoder for dividing the luminance level into n number of levels by discriminating the luminance level of the input video signal ~~on the basis of m-bit data of upper luminance levels~~, with n being ~~equal to $2^{(m-1)}$~~ an integer ≥ 2;

a coefficient control unit for selectively changing a coefficient among n number of coefficients based on a judging signal from said level judging unit so that a high-value coefficient is selected for a high luminance level and a low-value coefficient is selected for a low luminance level, with the coefficient multiplied by the contour component sampled by means of said contour pick-up unit; and

an adder for adding the contour component output from the coefficient control unit to the input video signal for outputting a contour-emphasized video signal~~,~~

~~wherein maximum coefficient values are either equal to 0 or fall within a range that is less than $1/2^x$ but greater than or equal to $1/2^{(x+1)}$, where x is an integer ranging from 0 to n.~~

8. (Previously Presented) The contour emphasizing circuit according to Claim 7, wherein said decoder of said level judging unit correlates the luminance level of the input

video signal to one of four luminance levels, and the coefficient control unit comprises four multipliers for multiplying the contour components sampled by said contour pick-up unit by any of the coefficients 1/8, 1/4, 1/2 and 1 for outputting the product thereof, four AND gates respectively connected to an output side of the four multipliers for using the signal interpreted by said decoder as a gate control signal, and an OR gate connected to the output sides of the four AND gates.

9. (Previously Presented) The contour emphasizing circuit according to Claim 7, wherein said contour pick-up unit comprises a horizontal contour component pick-up unit for sampling the contour component in a horizontal direction from the input video signal.

10.-11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) A contour emphasizing circuit, comprising:
a contour pick-up unit for sampling a contour component from an input luminance signal;
a decoder for determining a luminance level of the input luminance signal from among n number of luminance levels ~~predetermined from m number of upper bits of the input luminance signal~~, with n being ~~equal to 2^{m-1}~~ an integer ≥2;
a coefficient control unit comprising multipliers and gates for selectively changing n number of coefficients according to a decoded signal generated by said decoder and utilized as a gate control signal, such that a high-value contour emphasizing coefficient is selected for a high luminance level and a low-value contour emphasizing coefficient is selected for a low luminance level, thereby producing a contour component output by multiplying said

selected contour emphasizing coefficient with the contour component sampled by said contour pick-up unit; and

an adder for adding the contour component output from the coefficient control unit to the input luminance signal for outputting a contour-emphasized luminance signal,

wherein the coefficient control unit comprises n number of multipliers for multiplying the sampled contour components by any one of n number of coefficients ~~having a value defined by $1/2^{n-x}$, where x is an integer ranging from 1 to n~~, along with n number of AND gates respectively connected to the output sides of the n number of multipliers for using the signal interpreted by said decoder as the gate control signal, along with an OR gate connected to the output sides of the n number of AND gates.

13.-14.   (Canceled).

15.   (Previously Presented)   The contour emphasizing circuit according to Claim 12, wherein said contour pick-up unit comprises a horizontal contour component pick-up unit for sampling the contour component in a horizontal direction from the input luminance signal.